

a light anterior and lateral margin, and a cream colored spot near the sutural margin; body white, with from 31 to 34 annular black cross-bands, which are much broader on the back than on the abdomen; lower surface of the head with longitudinal dark streaks.

Of the three specimens examined in the preparation of this description, two were obtained through the kindness of Mr. A. Zietz, of the South Australian Museum, Adelaide, who collected them in the neighbourhood of Port Augusta, S.A., and who further informs me by letter that he has since received specimens from Port Pirie, S.A. The third specimen was collected by Mr. A. J. Campbell, of Melbourne, in West Australia, and forwarded to the Institution for identification. As the Museum Library does not at present possess a copy of the letterpress of Jan's *Iconographie générale des Ophidiens*, I have taken this opportunity of describing in detail this very distinct species. The largest specimen examined measured nearly ten inches.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW *TETRODON* FROM
NEW SOUTH WALES.

BY J. DOUGLAS OGILBY.

TETRODON AURANTIUS, *sp. nov.*

D. 11. A. 10. P. 17. C. 9.

THE length of the head is three and two-fifths of the total length. The eyes are situated at an equal distance from the tip of the snout and the superior angle of the gill-opening, and their diameter is one-half of the length of the snout, and four-sevenths of the interorbital space, which is slightly concave. Nasal organs pierced in the lower half of a bifid papilla, with only one opening on each side. Dorsal profile broad. The distance between the tip of the snout and the origin of the dorsal fin is four-sevenths of the total length: the snout is two-thirds of the distance between the posterior dorsal ray and the origin of the caudal fin, and is equal to the height of the caudal pedicle immediately behind the anal fin, which is situated entirely behind the dorsal: * the pectoral fins are short and rounded: the caudal, which is also rounded, is five-sevenths of the length of the head. The entire body and head, with the exception of the lips, armed with long blunt spines with a slightly nodular termination; these spines materially

*The origin of the anal fin is perpendicularly beneath a point behind the dorsal fin, and is equal to the base of that fin.

diminish in number and size on the caudal pedicle. *Colors*—Body and head orange, paler below; a very few irregularly scattered black spots on the body; lips brown; dorsal, anal and caudal fins with the outer half dusky; pectorals orange at the base, pale yellow on the outer margin, with a black median band, broader superiorly; gill-opening black, with an occasional milk-white spot; nasal papillæ and tips of the body spines black.

The species described above belongs to Section ii. B. of Dr. Gunthers' Catalogue, it measures ten and three-fourths inches, and was obtained in the Shoalhaven District.

ON A FRESH WATER ALGA AT WEST MAITLAND
WATERWORKS.

By T. WHITELEGGE.

Geological Survey Branch,
31st July, 1890.

The Acting Curator, Australian Museum.

Sir,—I have already forwarded to you a sample of the minute vegetable organism, which has of late spread with such alarming rapidity through the main reservoir and the settling tanks at the West Maitland Waterworks.

The engineer in charge, Mr. Nicholson, informed me that he was obliged to keep men constantly employed in removing this vegetable growth, as unless kept constantly in check it chokes the supply pipes and obstructs the percolation of water through the filter beds. The plant appears to me, upon microscopic examination, to be a variety of fresh-water Alga, but as I am quite unable to offer any suggestions as to the best means for its eradication, I ventured to forward you the samples of this Alga, in the hope perhaps that you might consider the matter of sufficient importance to have a thorough investigation made to determine (1) the nature of the Alga, and (2) the best specifics for checking or entirely preventing its growth. Mr. Nicholson, the engineer in charge of the Waterworks at West Maitland, would be pleased to furnish any details you may require with regard to the occurrence of the Alga.

The discovery of an efficient remedy for this pest would be a great public benefit.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) T. W. E. DAVID,
Actg. Geol. Surveyor in charge.